

June 27, 1963

Dr. N. E. Golovin
President's Science Advisory Committee
Executive Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Golovin:

Why is a presidential advisory panel studying the scientific exploration of the moon?

There is a very serious question - whether NASA has appropriate machinery to reach the right conclusions on such matters. Probably not (or I would not suggest an advisory council to the administrator), and if not, surely this is the problem the President would want cleared up. If it is not cleared up, what will be the practical effect of any recommendations the panel makes?

There are of course new approaches and substantive problems that PSAC must deal with, primarily because they concern no existing agency, or too many of them (science information, relations with universities), or the public needs reassurance of objectivity (pesticides, radiation hazards), though even these usually betray some organizational defects. I am puzzled how lunar science matches such responsibilities.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

Golovin - PSAC